

it should be the Forest Service's intention to focus more of the funding and effort at the field level.

Should the conferees be agreeable to adopting the language that we are including in the Senate bill, I would hope that conference report language could be included which directs the Forest Service to tailor its work force and organization appropriately.

I would hope that the conferees note that expenditures on regional office operations and centralized field costs at the regional headquarters have risen to 30 percent from 18 percent of annual appropriated funds since 1993.

I trust that everyone recognizes that the reduced timber volume offered under the new TLMP plan will create economic hardships for local communities and that imbalanced distribution of remaining Federal jobs and spending in the region may compound those hardships. Accordingly, I would hope that the conference report would direct the regional Forester to conduct a regional work load study and to develop a work force plan that ensures high levels of customer service throughout the region, preserves the regional headquarters in Alaska, evaluates the need to consolidate and/or relocate offices, including relocating the regional office to Ketchikan, and provides for implementation by January 1, 2000.

Further, the workforce plan should reflect the full participation of affected southeast Alaska communities, and include a community-by-community assessment of economic impacts and the rationale used by the regional forester to distribute Federal jobs under the work force plan. I hope that any work force plan will emphasize retention of personnel experienced in southeast Alaska's multiple use mission, will make maximum use of local hiring authority, and will be submitted to committees of jurisdiction in both the House and Senate by March 1, 1998, for review and further guidance, if warranted.

Under my amendment, any expenditures at the regional office in excess of \$17.5 million from the funds provided to the region would have to be preceded by a 60-day notification of the Appropriations Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives. I believe this language properly reflects the results of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources oversight efforts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to. The amendment (No. 1217) was agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I understand the Presiding Officer has certain announcements to make.

#### APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 101-445, appoints Charles H. White, of Mississippi, to the National Nutrition Monitoring Advisory Council.

#### TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces that the Senate has received from the House H.R. 2378, the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill for fiscal 1998.

Under a previous order, all after the enacting clause of H.R. 2378 is stricken, and the text of S. 1023, as passed by the Senate, is inserted in lieu thereof, the House bill, as amended, is read a third time, and passed. The Senate insists on its amendment, requests a conference with the House, and the Chair appoints the following conferees.

The Presiding Officer (Mr. HUTCHINSON) appointed Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. KOHL, and Ms. MIKULSKI, conferees on the part of the Senate.

#### DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces that the Senate has received from the House H.R. 2264, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill for fiscal 1998.

Under a previous order, all after the enacting clause of H.R. 2264 is stricken and the text of S. 1061, as passed by the Senate, is inserted in lieu thereof. The House bill is read a third time, and passed. The Senate insists on its amendment, requests a conference with the House, and the Chair appoints the following conferees.

The Presiding Officer (Mr. HUTCHINSON) appointed Mr. SPECTER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. BOND, Mr. GREGG, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. CRAIG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. REID, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BYRD conferees on the part of the Senate.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a

period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### OPERATION DRUG FREE GEORGIA

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, during a recent meeting in my home State of Georgia, a young woman approached me to express her concerns and hope that we can soon eradicate drugs from her home town of Cordele, GA. Her comments were written down on a piece of paper and were as follows:

I can be anything, if I put my mind to it. But, if I use drugs I won't have a mind to do anything.

Drugs Destroy Dreams. United we can help Senator Coverdell stamp out drugs in Cordele.

Mr. President, her comments struck me because they are frank and hard-hitting—if you use drugs, you will not be able to follow your hopes and dreams.

As we legislate in this body, we must continue to listen to our youth as they convey this message. For after all, they are the ones in which the future, and all of our dreams, lies.

#### SALLIE MAE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, a constituent of mine, Mr. Brad Cohen, has been named the winner of the 1997 Sallie Mae First Class Teacher Award for the State of Georgia. I ask unanimous consent that a congratulatory letter to him be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,  
Washington, DC, August 26, 1997.  
Mr. BRADLEY COHEN,  
Atlanta, GA

DEAR BRAD: It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on being named the winner of the "1997 Sallie Mae First Class Teacher Award" for the State of Georgia.

Brad, you have every reason to be proud of this achievement; it is indeed a special honor to have been singled out among the thousands of gifted and dedicated school teachers throughout our wonderful State. You have set a marvelous example for your students, enlightening them with your own experience and the importance of self-confidence. Your second-graders are truly lucky to share your knowledge and enthusiasm.

Thank you for your outstanding contributions to the youth of Georgia, and best wishes for every continued success.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. COVERDELL,  
U.S. Senator.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I thank you, and once again congratulate Mr. Cohen on his achievement.

#### U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 5TH

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending September 12,